

NEWS

FROM ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

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YAROSLAVSKY CAUTIOUSLY WELCOMES SCHWARZENEGGER AID TO LOCAL GOV'TS

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky today cautiously welcomed Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's announced aid for local governments to replace revenue lost when the Governor and the Legislature last month slashed the state's vehicle license fees (VLF), most of which are earmarked for public safety and other local services.

In a statement, Yaroslavsky said:

"I'm pleased that the Governor and State Controller Steve Westly have clearly recognized the State of California's legal and financial obligations to hold local governments harmless after cutting the VLF.

"I would have preferred that this solution have come about in a more orderly way, but the Governor had made a promise to protect local governments, and I credit him for showing true leadership in taking bold and decisive steps to keep that promise.

"This has yet to play itself out, and I am concerned about how the state will meet its funding obligations. But we are today in a genuine fiscal emergency, and the Governor has recognized that fact and acted on it accordingly."

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